

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An entrails removal instrument for making a hollow cavity in a body of a bait fish,
2 including:
 - 3 a. an elongate body having two straight parallel longitudinal sides, said body forming
4 a curved groove between said longitudinal sides;
 - 5 b. an end section, said end section extending from said elongate body and tapering to
6 a rounded point; and
 - 7 c. a plurality of tines emanating from a surface of the instrument, wherein at least one
8 tine of said plurality of tines emanates from the end section and is directed away
9 from the rounded point and towards the elongate body, wherein said entrails
10 removal instrument is adapted to fit into the body of the bait fish and form a
11 hollow cavity when the instrument is inserted into the body, rotated and removed.
- 1 2. The entrails removal instrument of claim 1, wherein said instrument is made from steel.
- 1 3. The entrails removal instrument of claim 1, wherein said instrument is made from
2 stainless steel.
- 1 4. The entrails removal instrument of claim 1, wherein the at least one tine that emanates
2 from the end section includes a plurality of tines.
- 1 5. The entrails removal instrument of claim 1, wherein the plurality of tines emanate from
2 the surface of the instrument at an angle in the range between about 15 degrees and
3 about 45 degrees.
- 1 6. The entrails removal instrument of claim 1, wherein the end section includes a blade
2 surface at the rounded point.
- 1 7. The entrails removal instrument of claim 1, wherein the instrument is one integral
2 piece.

1 8. The entrails removal instrument of claim 1, wherein the bait fish is a herring.

1 9. A method of making a plug-cut bait from a bait fish having a head, body, and tail, the
2 method including acts of:

3 a. cutting the head off the bait fish with a knife while leaving the fish body and tail
4 intact;

5 b. inserting an entrails removal instrument into the fish body to a position forward of
6 the tail, wherein said entrails removal instrument comprises an elongate instrument
7 body having two straight parallel longitudinal sides, said instrument body forming a
8 curved groove between said longitudinal sides; an end section, said end section
9 extending from said instrument body and tapering to a rounded point; and a plurality
10 of tines emanating from a surface of the instrument, wherein at least one tine of said
11 plurality of tines emanates from the end section and is directed away from the rounded
12 point and towards the elongate body, wherein said entrails removal instrument is
13 adapted to fit into the body of the bait fish and form a hollow cavity when inserted into
14 the body, rotated and removed;

15 c. rotating said entrails removal instrument; and

16 d. removing the entrails removal instrument, whereby a the viscera of the fish are
17 removed leaving the body and tail intact with a neat hollow cavity.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the entrails remover is inserted at least 2 inches into
2 the body.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further including moving the entrails removal instrument in a
2 lateral motion.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of rotating includes rotating at least 360°.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the method further comprises inserting at least one
2 fishing hook attached to a fishing line into the hollow cavity and pushing it out through the
3 fish body to form a bait.

1 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the bait fish is herring.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one fishing hook includes a plurality of
2 fishing hooks.

1 16. A plug-cut bait made according to the method of claim 12.

1 17. A plug-cut bait made according to the method of claim 13.

1 18. A plug-cut bait made according to the method of claim 15.

1 19. The plug-cut bait of claim 16, wherein the bait fish is chosen from the group consisting
2 of herring, anchovy, sardine and smelt.

1 20. The plug-cut bait of claim 17, wherein the bait fish is chosen from the group consisting
2 of herring, anchovy, sardine and smelt.

1 21. The plug-cut bait of claim 18, wherein the bait fish is chosen from the group consisting
2 of herring, anchovy, sardine and smelt.